Iowa Alternate Assessment

Performance Level Descriptors & Cut Scores

2013-2014

Reading

Grade 3 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: identify characters and setting use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions using predicting skills identify some text features	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: identify characters and setting use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions using predicting skills identify some text features	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: identify characters and setting use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions using predicting skills identify some text features
0-15	16-25	26+

Grade 4 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions using predicting skills identify text features infer character feelings	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions using predicting skills identify text features infer character feelings	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: identify characters, setting and sequences of events (plot) use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions using predicting skills identify text features infer character feelings
0-17	18-26	27+

Grade 5 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions identify text features connect story or text to personal experiences infer character feelings and traits identify author's point of view identify main ideas of a passage	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions identify text features connect story or text to personal experiences infer character feelings and traits identify author's point of view identify main ideas of a passage	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: identify characters, setting and sequence of events (plot) use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions identify text features connect story or text to personal experiences infer character feelings and traits identify author's point of view identify main ideas of a passage
0-21	22-27	28+

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: understand stated information use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions and make inferences identify text features connect story or text to other media infer character feelings, traits, and motives identify author's purpose identify main idea	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: understand stated information use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions and make inferences identify text features connect story or text to other media infer character feelings, traits, and motives identify author's purpose identify main ideas	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: understand stated information use context clues to understand some words draw conclusions and make inferences identify text features connect story or text to other media infer character feelings, traits, and motives identify author's purpose identify main ideas
0-20	21-34	35+

Grade 7 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to: understand stated information determine the meanings of new words from their context draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning identify style and structure identify author's purpose identify main ideas identify nonliteral language in text	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to: understand stated information determine the meanings of new words from their context draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning identify style and structure identify author's purpose identify main ideas identify nonliteral language in text	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to: understand stated information determine the meanings of new words from their context draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning identify style and structure identify author's purpose identify main idea identify nonliteral language in text
0-22	23-37	38+

Grade 8 – Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced

Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to:
    understand stated information
    interpret information in new contexts
    draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
    recognize style and structure
    identify main idea
    interpret nonliteral language in text
    identify author's point of view and/or purpose
	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to:
	    understand stated information
	    interpret information in new contexts
	    draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
	    recognize style and structure
	    identify main idea
	    interpret nonliteral language in text
	    identify author's point of view and/or purpose
		Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to:
		    understand stated information
		    interpret information in new contexts
		    draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
		    recognize style and structure
		    identify main idea
		    interpret nonliteral language in text
		    identify author's point of view and/or purpose

0-25	26-39	40+

Grade 10 - Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced

Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to:
    make predictions based on stated information
    interpret information in new contexts
    draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
    recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques
    determine main idea, topic and/or theme
    interpret nonliteral language in text
    identify author's point of view and/or purpose
    distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions
	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to:
	    make predictions based on stated information
	    interpret information in new contexts
	    draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
	    recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques
	    determine main idea, topic and/or theme
	    interpret nonliteral language in text
	    identify author's point of view and/or purpose
	    distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions
		Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to:
		    make predictions based on stated information
		    interpret information in new contexts
		    draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
		    recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques
		    determine main idea, topic and/or theme
		    interpret nonliteral language in text
		    identify author's point of view and/or purpose
		    distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions

0-25	26-34	35+

Grade 11 - Reading Performance Descriptors and Cut Scores

Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Demonstrates a limited understanding of or ability to:	Demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of or ability to:	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of or ability to:
make predictions based on stated information	make predictions based on stated information	make predictions based on stated information
interpret information in new contexts	interpret information in new contexts	interpret information in new contexts
draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning	draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning	draw conclusions, use inferences and/or deduce meaning
recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques	recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques	recognize style, structure and/or literary techniques
determine main idea, topic and/or theme	determine main idea, topic and/or theme	determine main idea, topic and/or theme
interpret nonliteral language in text	interpret nonliteral language in text	interpret nonliteral language in text
identify author's point of view and/or purpose	identify author's point of view and/or purpose	identify author's point of view and/or purpose
distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions	distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions	distinguish among facts/opinions and/or assumptions
0-25	26-34	35+